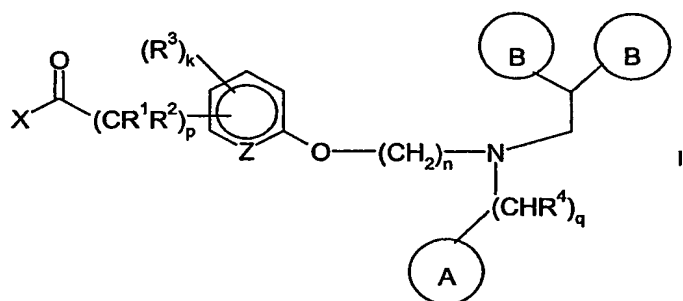


What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating or preventing IBD in a mammal; comprising, administering a therapeutically effective amount of LXR agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or physiologically functional derivative thereof.
2. The method of claim 1 in which IBD is selected from the group consisting of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and inflammatory colitis caused by bacteria, ischemia, radiation, drugs or chemical substances.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the LXR agonist is a compound of formula (II):



wherein:

- X is OH or NH₂;
- p is 0-6;
- each R¹ and R² are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₁₋₈alkoxy and C₁₋₈thioalkyl;
- Z is CH or N;
- when Z is CH, k is 0-4;
- when Z is N, k is 0-3;
- each R³ is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of halo, -OH, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₂₋₈alkenyl, C₁₋₈alkoxy, C₂₋₈alkenyloxy, -S(O)_aR⁶, -NR⁷R⁸, -COR⁶, COOR⁶, R¹⁰COOR⁶, OR¹⁰COOR⁶, CONR⁷R⁸, -OC(O)R⁹, -R¹⁰NR⁷R⁸, -OR¹⁰NR⁷R⁸, 5-6 membered heterocycle, nitro, and cyano;
- a is 0, 1 or 2;
- R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₁₋₈alkoxy and C₂₋₈alkenyl;

each R^7 and R^8 are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{3-8} alkynyl;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8} alkyl and $-NR^7R^8$;

5 R^{10} is C_{1-8} alkyl;

n is 2-8;

q is 0 or 1;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{1-8} alkenyl, and alkenyloxy;

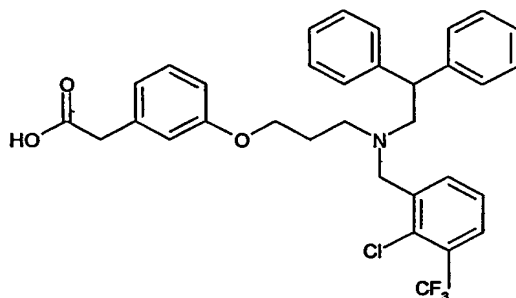
Ring A is selected from the group consisting of C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl, 4-8 membered

10 heterocycle, and 5-6 membered heteroaryl;

each ring B is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{3-8} cycloalkyl and aryl.

4. The method according to claim 3, in which the LXR agonist is the compound of

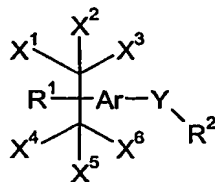
15 formula (IIa)



(IIa)

5. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the LXR agonist is a compound of

20 compounds of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

Ar represents an aryl group; R^1 is –

OH, -O-(C₁-C₇)alkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁-C₇)alkyl, -O-(C₁-C₇)heteroalkyl, -OC(O)-(C₁-C₇)heteroalkyl, -CO₂H, -NH₂, -NH(C₁-C₇)alkyl, -N((C₁-C₇)alkyl)₂ or – NH-S(O)₂-(C₁-C₅)alkyl;

5 R^2 is (C₁-C₇)alkyl, (C₁-C₇)heteroalkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₇)alkyl;

X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , X^5 and X^6 are each independently H, (C₁-C₅)alkyl, (C₁-C₅)heteroalkyl, F or Cl, with the proviso that no more than three of X^1 through X^6 are H, (C₁-C₅)alkyl or (C₁-C₅)heteroalkyl; and

Y is -N(R^{12})S(O)_m-, -N(R^{12})S(O)_mN(R^{13})-, -N(R^{12})C(O)-, –

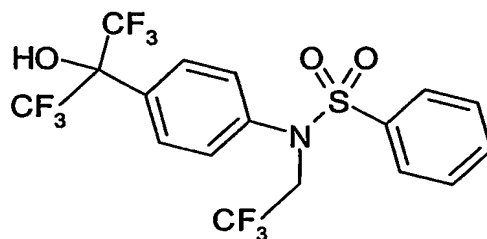
10 N(R^{12})C(O)N(R^{13})-, -N(R^{12})C(S)- or -N(R^{12})C(O)O-, wherein R^{12} and R^{13} are each independently hydrogen, (C₁-C₇)aryl, (C₁-C₇)heteroalkyl, aryl and aryl(C₁-C₇)alkyl, and optionally when Y is –

N(R^{12})S(O)_m- or -N(R^{12})S(O)_mN(R^{13})-, R^{12} forms a five, six or

seven-membered ring fused to Ar or to R^2 through covalent attachment to Ar or R^2 ,

15 respectively. In the above Y groups, the subscript m is an integer of from 1 to 2.

6. The method according to claim 5, in which the LXR agonist is the compound of formula Ia



Ia